



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release JUNE 12, 1957

#### SECRETARY SEATON WELCOMES NEW CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Practically every major decision made by the Department of the Interior affects the lives of Americans for generations to come and "we welcome a complete and searching examination of our every move," Secretary Fred A. Seaton said today.

The statement was made as Secretary Seaton welcomed members of the new Advisory Committee on Fish and Wildlife to their first meeting.

Eighteen members of the 24-person committee were present during the first day's sessions which were held in the Secretary's conference room in the Department of the Interior building. The meeting will continue through tomorrow.

Michael Hudoba, conservation director of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, presided at the opening session during the temporary absence of Assistant Secretary Ross L. Leffler who was called to testify before a congressional Committee.

Assistant Secretary Leffler, who followed Secretary Seaton in welcoming the group, set forth the area in which the committee would operate. Secretary Leffler stressed that each member of the committee would be expected to serve as an individual, contributing his personal experience and advice on problems before the Fish and Wildlife Service, and not to express the views of any organization to which he might belong.

Donald L. McKernan, Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, gave a general picture of the work and problems of his bureau. He touched upon some of the problems which affect commercial fishing, both biological and economic.

Robert M. Rutherford, Acting Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, reviewed the general approaches to present-day problems proposed in the 10-year program of that Bureau, which is now under consideration by the Department.

During the afternoon numerous sport fishing and wildlife problems were discussed. Thursday's meeting will be devoted to commercial fishing matters.

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